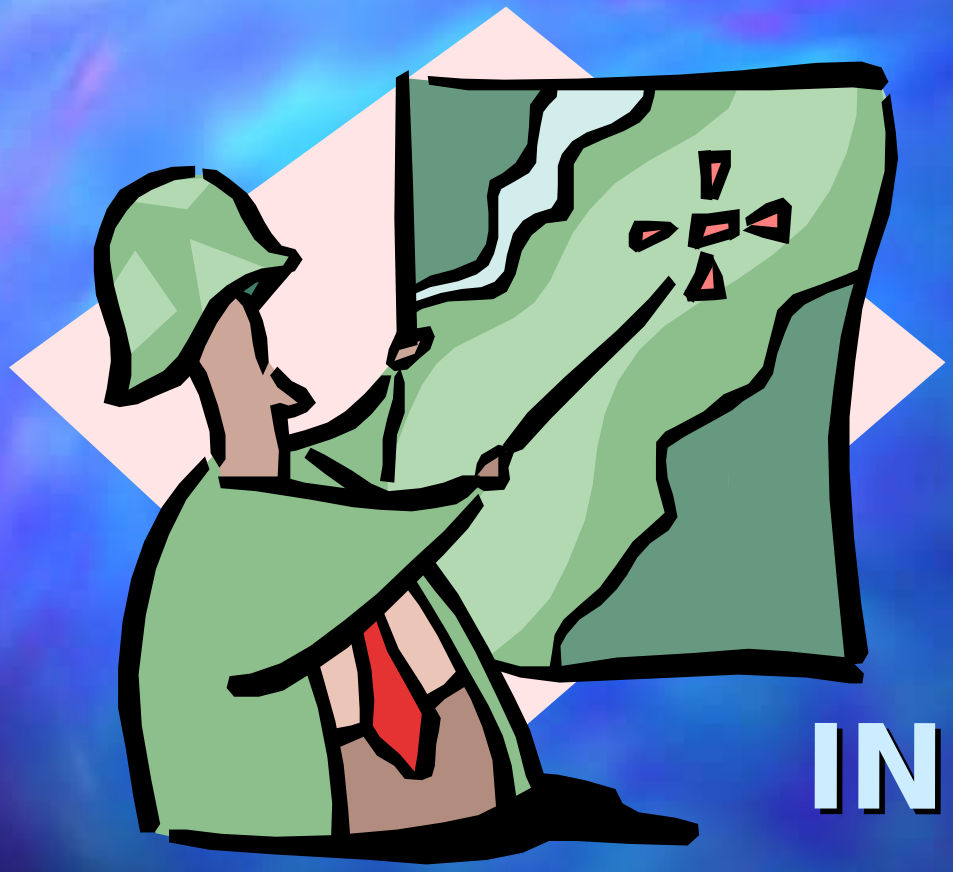


DENTAL SUPPORT IN A THEATER OF OPERATIONS

1. Terminal Learning Objective

Given specific information on the wartime role of the Army Dental Care System verify the overall functions of Dental Support in a Theater of Operations. IAW FM 4-02.10, TOE 08478A0

2. Enabling Learning Objectives

a. Select the dental support services (DSS) that contribute to the overall combat health support (CHS) mission IAW FM 4-02.19 , TOE 08478A0 and Dental concepts,

b. Given a list of echeloned dental care, match the definitions and examples of categories of dental care in a Theater of Operations (TO) IAW FM 4-02.19.

c. Given a list, select the types of dental support in a TO IAW FM 4-02-19.

d. Identify the mission, basis of allocation, organization and mobility of The Dental Company Area Support (DCAS)

e. Given a list, select the three objectives of field dentistry IAW FM 4-02.19.

f. Select the three patient care operations as they relate to the field environment IAW FM 4-02.19.

1. The Dental Service Support

a. The DSS is provided across the continuum of military operations-war, conflict and peace. As with combat health support (CHS), DSS conserves the fighting strength by returning casualties to duty as far forward as

- In contributing to the overall CHS mission, the DDS mission is to:

- Promote dental health.
- Prevent and treat oral disease.
- Provide far forward dental

- Provide early treatment of severe oral and maxillofacial injuries.

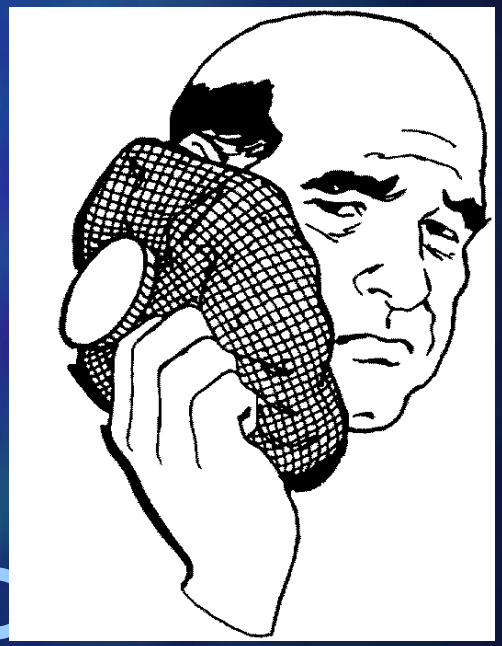
- Maintain the dental fitness of theater forces.

- Augment medical assets during mass casualty (MASCAL) operations.

- Within the TO, DSS provides operational care: emergency and essential. Another category normally found in only fixed facilities in the US is comprehensive.

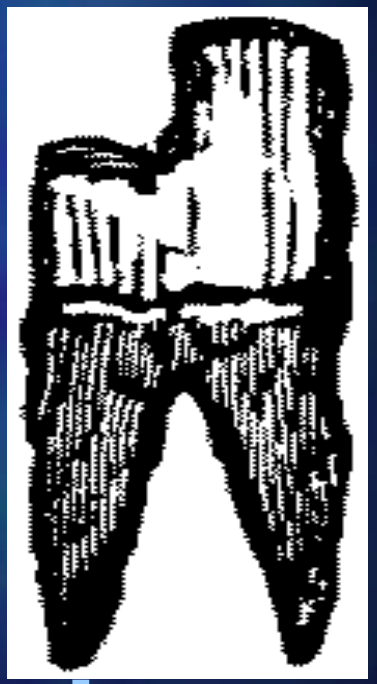
2. Categories of Dental care in a Theater of Operations (TO).

a. Operational care (Emergency and Essential).



(1) Emergency C

(a) The most austere type care
and is available to soldiers
engaged in tactical operations



(b) Examples of emergency care.

(1) Relief of oral pain

(3) Control life threatening conditions i. e. hemorrhage, cellulitis, etc.

(4) Treatment of trauma to jaws and facial structures.

(c) Treatment

(1) Simple Extractions

(2) Antibiotics

(3) Pain medications

(4) Temporary fillings

(2) Essential care

(a) Treatment necessary to intercept dental emergen and to prevent loss of du time

(b) Examples of essential care

(1) Definitive restorations

(2) Minor oral surgery

(3) Periodontics

(4) Prosthodontics

(5) Prophylaxis

b. Comprehensive care

(1) Treatment to restore an individual to optimal oral health, function and esthetics.

(2) Normally found in fixed facilities
in the U. S., and for individuals who
may be in Theater for an extens
per
are availa

3. Types of Dental Support Within a Theater of Operations (TO).

a. Unit dental support - organic.

(1) Mission: Provides emergency dental treatment to soldiers during tactical

(2) Dental modules (teams) assigned to:

NOTE: A dental team is composed of one dental officer and a dental specialist.

(a) Medical companies of a division

(b) Separate brigades.

(c) Armored Cavalry Regiments

(3) Concept of operation.

(a) Primary concern is Return to Duty (RTD).

(b) Unit dental support - limited number of dentists & assistants.

(c) May not get definitive care.

(d) Patients evacuated if treatment beyon treatment team.

b. Hospital dental support

(1) Primary mission - minim
loss of life and disability
from oral and maxillofac
injuries and wounds.

2. Personnel

(a) Oral surgeon- MAJ 63N part of hospital surgical staff.

(b) Comprehensive dentist – CPT 63B

(c) Dental NCO – SGT – 91E20

(d) Preventive Dentistry

3. Area dental support

a. Provides dental support on an area basis.

(1) Depending on the tactical situation.

(2) Varying degrees.

b. Provides operational care.

c. The Dental Company Area Support (DCAS), TOE 08478A, provides the majority of dental support in a TO.

D. Dental Company Area Support

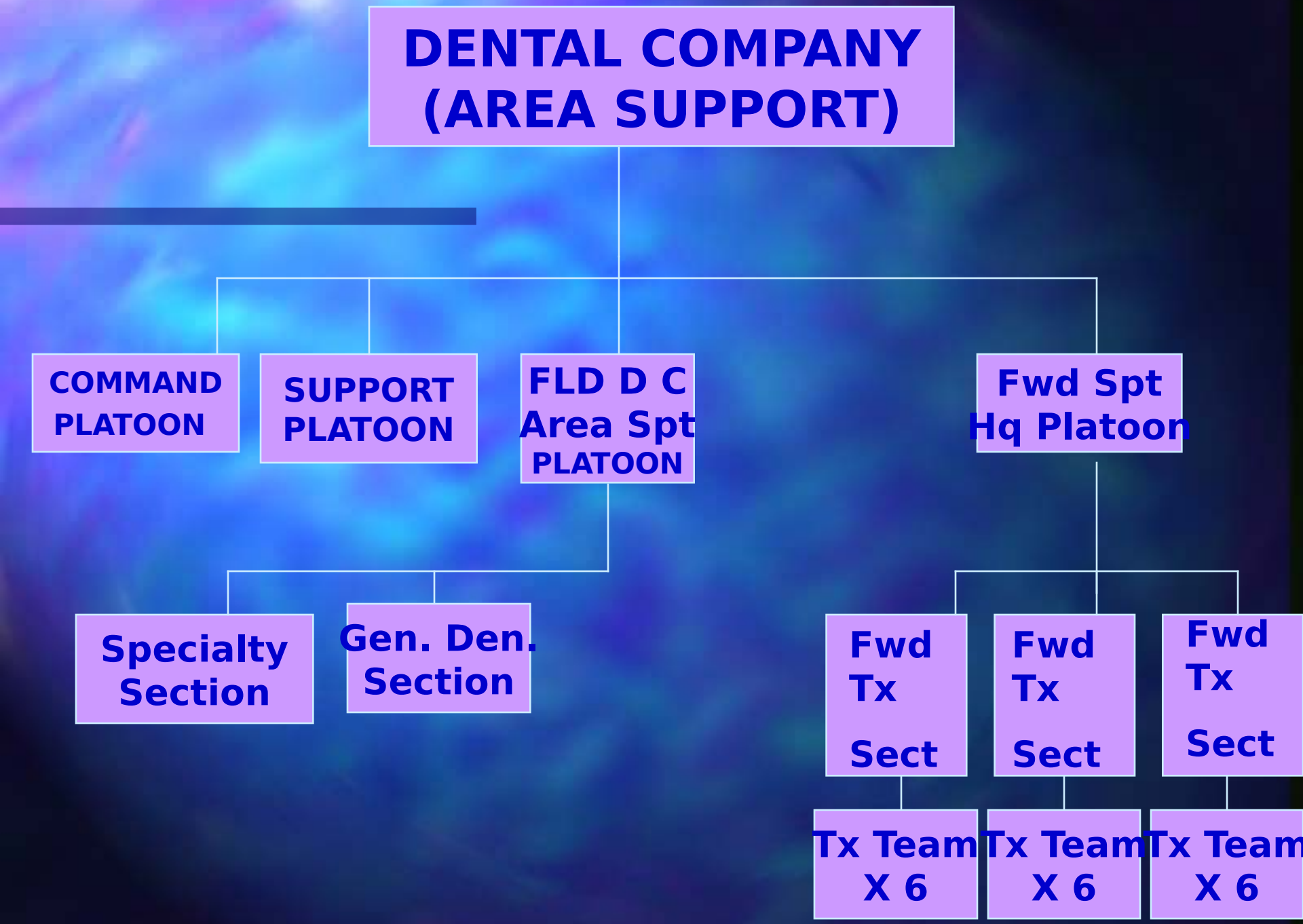
1. Mission: (Old mission - to provide emergency, sustaining and maintaining dental care on an area basis). New words operational (emergency

3. Organization - 31 officers and 62 enlisted.

4. Mobility: Capable of transporting 80% of its personnel and equipment in a single lift.

5. The entire DCAS will augmen
medical assets during mass
casualty situations.

6. The DCAS will depend on the
command, corps medical brig
for medical, administrative a
logistical support.


DENTAL COMPANY
(AREA SUPPORT)
COMMAND PLATOON
SUPPORT PLATOON
FLD D C Area Spt PLATOON
Fwd Spt Hq Platoon
Specialty Section
Gen. Den. Section
Fwd Tx Sect
Fwd Tx Sect
Fwd Tx Sect
Tx Team X 6
Tx Team X 6
Tx Team X 6

E. Objectives of Field Dentistry

1. Treat soldiers as quickly as possible.

2. Return to duty as quickly as tactical situation permits

F. Patient Care Operations.

1. Preventive dentistry.

a. Measures are taken to reduce or eliminate or conditions that decrea a soldiers fitness to perform their mission

b. Provide oral health counseling
when appropriate to groups and or individuals.

c. The Dental Hygiene DES contains
items for dental prophylaxis treatment, also a limited supply

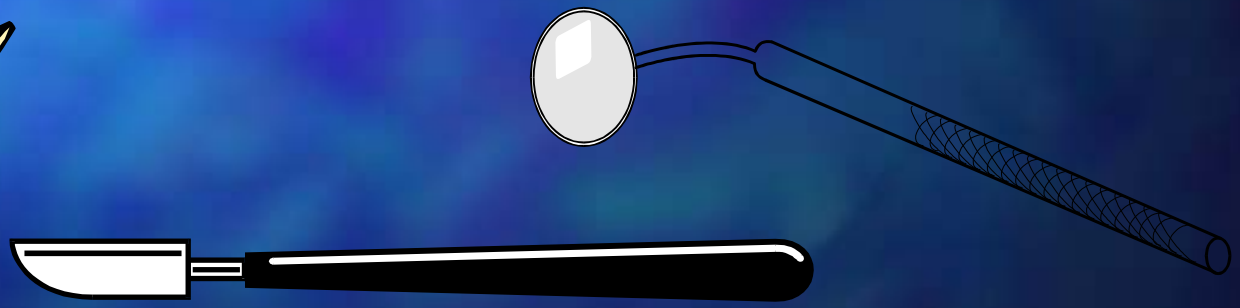
2. Infection control.

a. Basic principles of infection control are often compromised in interest of expediency.

b. Expediency and compromise

c. Personal protection of varying degrees in each DES.

(1) DISS (Dental Instrument and Supply Set) - Gloves, mask, eye protection.



(2) Large dental equipment set
(DES) (General Dentistry) -
gloves, mask, eye protection,
clinical gowns, plastic aprons,
rubber dam armamentarium,

d. Waste disposal - normally
available through enginee
units, preventive medicine
or the local MTF.

3. Radiology.

a. Poses significant safety hazard.

b. Important diagnostic tool.

c. Must be 50 feet from the facility.

d. Beam aimed away from

G. Questions from students.

Review of Main Points

1. Dental Support Services
2. Echeloned Dental Care
3. Types of Dental Care
4. Mission, Basis of Allocation, Organization and Mobility of the DCAS.
5. Three Objectives of Field Dentistry.
6. Three Patient Care Operations